



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

901 South Stewart Street, #5004
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone (775) 684-2760 - Fax (775) 684-2761

State Conservation Commission

Friday, January 26, 2007

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at the
Richard H. Bryan Building, 901 S. Stewart Street,
2nd floor Hearing Room, Carson City, NV 89701

The State Conservation Commission considered and acted on the following items on January 26, 2007 at 10:00am:

Board Members Present: Keith Whipple – Lincoln County CD, Commission Vice-Chairman; Howard Glancy – Dayton Valley CD; Joe Sicking – Paradise/Sonoma CD; Vance Vesco – Big Meadow CD; Edward K. Foster (for Don Henderson, Director), Regional Manager/Plant Industry - NV Department of Agriculture; Judy Currier – CD of Southern Nevada.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Rangesan Narayanan – Associate Dean UNR Department of Agriculture; Sterling Wines – White Pine CD.

Others Present: Pamela B. Wilcox, Executive Secretary – NV Division of Conservation Districts; Kelly McGowan – NV Division of Conservation Districts; Sandi Gotta – NV Division of Conservation Districts; Shanea Evans – NV Division of Conservation Districts; Chris Freeman, Vice-President – Nevada Association of Conservation Districts; Bill Daily (for Richard Vigil, State Conservationist) – Natural Resources Conservation Service; Allen Biaggi, Director – NV Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Bob Conrad, Department Communications Officer – NV Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Kevin J. Hill, Question 1 Program Coordinator – NV Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Nevada Assemblyman James A. Settlemeyer; Paul Kolp, District Manager – Dayton Valley CD; Joe Tague, Branch Chief for Renewable Resources and Planning – Bureau of Land Management; Rex McKnight, State Fire Management – Bureau of Land Management; Greg Vergari, Fire Staff – US Forest Service.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Vice-Chairman Keith Whipple called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Introductions were made of those present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA - *ACTION*

- A. After reviewing the agenda, Vance Vesco made a motion to approve the agenda. Judy Currier seconded the motion, motion passed. The Commission acknowledged that there are a number of guest speakers and that agenda items are taken out of sequence to accommodate those guests.

III. REVIEW, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES - *ACTION*

- A. After reviewing the minutes, Joe Sicking made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 23 & 25, 2006 State Conservation Commission meeting. Judy Carrier seconded the motion, motion passed.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS - *ACTION*

A. *Election of Chairman*

1. Judy Carrier made a motion to elect Keith Whipple as Chairman. Joe Sicking seconded the motion, motion passed.

B. *Election of Vice-Chairman*

1. Vance Vesco made a motion to elect Joe Sicking as Vice-Chairman. Judy Carrier seconded the motion, motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. No Public Comments

VI. REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION

A. Status of the Division of Conservation Districts

1. Fiscal Report – Pamela B. Wilcox –

- a. Category 14 - AG Tort Claim – the reason that this category is approximately 90% expended is because the amount that the Attorney General's office bills per supervisor and employee changed. The entire claim has been paid out, and the reason for the addition money in the category is due to the fact that the claim was less than the amount budgeted for.
- b. Budget FY08 & FY09
 - a. Agency Performance Indicators
 - i. Match – the ratio of dollars generated by Conservation Districts for every dollar of State grants received from the Division of Conservation Districts.
 - ii. Percent of Districts in Good Standing
 - iii. Number of Districts visited by staff, out of 28 districts
 - iv. Number of Conservation District board trainings
 - v. Informational, educational and training tools developed
 - vi. Non-state funding generated by Division staff for Conservation District Programs
 - c. Kelly McGowan – The budget requires that the Division submit a maximum of six performance indicators. There are approximately twenty-one performance indicators that the Division measures quarterly. One of the indicators is contact with districts, i.e. e-mails, phone calls, mailings, etc. One of the Divisions goals is to go out and meet individually with every District every year. Another possible way to meet with Districts in the future could be using video conferencing.
 - d. Sandi Gotta – It is a goal of the Division to meet with every District once a year, however it could come down to a funding problem.
 - e. Pamela B. Wilcox – Parts of the Budget:
 - a. Base – What the Division spent last year. The Base continues funding for the Division of Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission. It includes three staff positions and appropriate operating authority.
 - b. Maintenance
 - i. M100 – Inflation – Statewide – these are the rate chanced for internal service funds, such as the Department of Information Technology, Motor Pool, vehicle insurance, personnel assessments, etc.

- ii. M300 – Fringe Benefit Rate Adjustments – this is the adjustments to fringe benefit rates.
 - iii. M304 – Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) – 2% COLA in the first year and a 4% COLA in the second year.
 - iv. M800 – Cost Allocation – Increases the Director's Office cost allocation resulting from maintenance decision units.
 - c. Enhancement Units ("wish-list")
 - i. E351 – Environmental Policies and Programs – funds printing and purchase of materials (open meeting law, ethic manual, supervisor handbook, etc) to distribute to 250 supervisors per a request to increase raining from the State Conservation Commission.
 - ii. E352 – Environmental Policies and Programs – funds training and out of state travel for participation in national meeting and training workshops.
 - iii. E354 – Environmental Policies and Programs – the agency has established a target for donations of \$5,150. In the base year, no donations were accepted or expended, however new partnerships and programs are expected to justify continuing target authority of \$5,150.
 - iv. E355 – Environmental Policies and Programs – increases in-state travel funds to permit State Conservation Commission to hold statutorily required meetings.
 - v. E710 – Replacement Equipment – replaces computer hardware and software, according to DoIT's replacement schedule.
 - vi. E720 – New Equipment – funds a projectors and personal data assistants for two professional staff.
 - vii. E818 – IT Contract Unit – transfers information technology contract until from the Department of Information Technology to the Purchasing Division.
- 2. General – Pamela B. Wilcox – Nothing to report. The Division is running smoothly with three full-time employees.
- 3. Conservation Districts Meeting Logs – Kelly McGowan and Sandi Gotta –
 - a. Measurement Indicators FY 2007:
 - a. Indicator #4 – Non-state Funding generated by Division staff for Conservation District programs. Mr. McGowan and Mrs. Gotta do see many funding opportunities for districts; however there is not always time to contact all the Districts. Also, a lot of the funding opportunities require a Match, and not all districts have the available funds for that Match.
 - b. Minute and Agenda Logs – these logs are available on the website and are updated the first of every month. There has been a Key added to each page of the Minute and Agenda log. The Key is as follows: "D" - Draft copy, "E" - Elections and a Blank cell indicated that the Division of Conservation Districts has nothing on file for that Month.
- 4. General/Correspondence – Kelly McGowan and Sandi Gotta –
 - a. Photos of District Projects are still needed from Districts. These photos will be complied on a PowerPoint presentation and given to districts for educational use, such as being presented to their legislator.
 - b. EPA Candidates for Environmental Awards – EPA is accepting nominations until February 16, 2007.
 - c. NACD Annual Meeting is being held in Los Angeles on February 3-8, 2007.
 - d. Nevada Youth Range Camp. Range Camp Flyers and PowerPoint presentation were shown to the State Conservation Commission. The Range Camp PowerPoint and flyers will be sent to each district for

educational and promotional use. The PowerPoint Presentation is attached.

B. SPECIAL GUEST ASSEMBLYMAN JAMES A. SETTELMAYER

1. With reference to the Nevada Youth Range Camp CD, Assemblyman Settelmeyer suggested that the CD be given to the Legislators by March 19th, which is when the Natural Resource Assembly Committee is meeting.
2. Assemblyman Settelmeyer will be putting forth the BDR that doubles District Funding from \$5,000 to \$10,000. It will be heard by the Assembly on Natural Resources, and if it cannot be, he will have it introduced to the Senate on Natural Resources instead.
3. Assemblyman Settelmeyer was formally the Chairman of the State Conservation Commission. He ran for and was elected to District 39. On December 4, 2006 the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) contacted him determining that there is a conflict and he can no longer serve on the State Conservation Commission. Assembly Settelmeyer presented his letter of resignation on December 4, 2006 to the Division of Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission.
4. March 19th is when the BDR will drop to the individual committees.
5. Assemblyman Settelmeyer urges the Districts to contact the Assembly and Senate on Natural Resources.
6. On behalf of the Commission Joe Sicking wished to thank Assemblyman Settelmeyer for all his contributions to conserving Nevada's natural resources, through his work on the Commission and within his District.

VII. REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION

A. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Allen Biaggi

1. Budget Hearings presented to the Legislature took place January 25, 2007. Mr. Biaggi is pleased to report that the Department's Budgets are adequate and will allow the department to get their missions and goals accomplished for the next two years.
 - a. This was the first time that the Department has done a single Department wide presentation to the Legislature. There was one presentation that covered then entire department's divisions and programs.
 - a. Bob Conrad, the Department's new Communications Officer has been a huge asset to the Department. He has worked hard on the presentation to the Legislature and been a great asset to the Department in terms of communication efforts.
2. Legislative Agenda for the Department –
 - a. Two bills are being proposed by the Division of Environmental Protection. One is to set up a Mercury trade and trading cap program – this mainly focuses on Elko and Eureka Counties where mines are located. Mercury emission from those mines has become an issues as well emissions from power plants within the State. In addition there is are a few minor water clean-up bills from Water Quality Planning in the Division of Environmental Protection.
 - b. Also in the upcoming Legislative session, like the previous session, there are a numerous amount of bills related to Water Resources. In the interim of the two Legislative sessions there was an Interim Study Committee that was formed. The Interim Study Committee is recommending six bills be brought forward dealing with everything from inter-basin transfers to fine and penalty provisions for the State Engineer.
3. Fire Issues –
 - a. Fire has been a huge issue in Nevada. There has been a dramatic loss of sagebrush habitat from fire and as that sagebrush habitat is being lost, the

invasive weed species are moving in to take its place. There is a problem with Cheat Grass in Northern Nevada and Red Brome in Southern Nevada. There was a loss of 1.3 million acres in Nevada and a total of 40 million was spent in fire suppression, 10 million of that spent by the state and 30 million spent by the Bureau of Land Management.

- b. With support from Governor Gibbons, the Department is undertaking an effort to coordinate their activities with local governments, State of Nevada agencies, Bureau of Land Management, and the US Forest Service, to take measures pre-suppression and post-suppression activities to break the fire cycle that Nevada is in.
 - a. Some of the ideas being considered are:
 - i. how they can put in landscape level fire breaks,
 - ii. how can grazing increase,
 - iii. how can they be more coordinated and efficient in fire fighting activities, and
 - iv. how they can enhance opportunities of local fire departments, ranchers and farmers to be the first response so the fires do not become catastrophic.
 - c. Senator Rhoads has been very supportive of the agencies that are looking at measures for pre and post fire suppression. The Senator has put 1 million dollars in the next budget to be used to assist volunteer fire departments and local ranchers and farmers to have the equipment and training they need to be able to be first responders to fires to be able to put them out or get the fires under control.
 - d. Chairman Keith Whipple stated that the Commission and the Districts are behind Mr. Biaggi and the Department's efforts in fire suppression. Kelly McGowan asked if there was a role that the Commission or Districts could play in helping with this effort. Mr. Biaggi offered if the Commission would like to be apart of the meetings, or would like to appoint someone to participate in the meetings that option is available to them. If there are Legislative issues or other issues that come up in the future, letters of support would be of great help to this effort.

4. Water Rights Issues –

- a. Walker River and Walker Lake - over the years Walker Lake has become higher in salinity. Due to a number of lawsuits that have been filed, the Department along with a number of participants have gone in to a court sanctioned mediation. The negotiations have been unsuccessful. Senator Reid and the University of Nevada system have set up a program to address some of the issues on the Walker River. Senator Reid has set up approximately 70 million dollars for education purposes to try and resolve some of the issues on the Walker River basin.
- b. Owyhee River Basin – Negotiations between the upstream Agriculture users and the Duck Valley Tribe were successful. At the end of 2006 an agreement was reached and signed regarding adjudication of water in the lower basin. Senator Reid will be introducing Legislation to formalize that agreement in this session of Congress.

- 5. Clark County – there has been a lot of press regarding Zebra and Quagga Mussels in Lake Mead and Lake Mohave. This is the first time that these mussels have shown up west of the 100th Meridian. The implication of having these mussels in the Colorado River system is huge. There have not been any ideas introduced of how to solve this problem.

B. Department of Agriculture – Edward K. Foster (for Don Henderson, Director) –

- 1. Mr. Foster thanked the Commission for their support for a weed bill that is being introduced by the Department of Agriculture.

C. University of Nevada, Reno – Dr. Rangesan Narayanan – Not Present – No report was given.

- D. Natural Resources Conservation Service – Bill Daily (for Richard Vigil, State Conservationist) –
 - 1. The budget that NRCS is operating under is very minimal.
 - 2. The Society for Range Management's 60th Annual Meeting is being held in Sparks, NV at the Nugget February 10th – 16th.
 - 3. There have been three major retirements at the State office in Reno, NV. Those three positions cannot be filled until they have an operating budget and know if funding is available for those positions.
 - 4. Richard Vigil is planning on attending the Nevada Fire Issues meeting held on Monday, January 29, 2006 in Carson City, NV.
- E. Farm Service Agency – Roger Van Valkenburg – Not Present – No report was given.
- F. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – Chris Freeman, Vice-President –
 - 1. Mr. Freeman has registered as a non-paid lobbyist.
 - 2. Area Meetings are coming up – March 7th and March 9th.
 - 3. Mr. Freeman is on the District Operations Committee – this handles district trainings.
 - 4. Resolutions – supporters and legislators to carry the resolutions are being found.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Review Big Meadow Annual Report - ***ACTION***
 - 1. Joe Sicking moved to accept the Big Meadow Annual Report. Judy Currier seconded the motion, motion passed.
- B. Review the equipment purchased by the Owyhee Conservation District - ***ACTION***
 - 1. Joe Sicking moved to accept the equipment purchased by Owyhee Conservation District. Judy Currier seconded the motion, motion passed.
- C. Discussion of different methods and ideas to help Districts be more efficient in getting reports in on time - ***ACTION***
 - 1. Have Staff send items for agenda consideration to Districts to get them involved. The more the Districts get involved, the more response the Division will receive.
 - 2. Kelly McGowan – staff could work with those Districts who do have full time staff and make sure they are getting their reports in on time. If staff makes sure that those Districts who have the full time staff are staying current with reports, then it could possibly be argued that the district without full time staff who are not in compliance are struggling because of a lack of funding.
 - 3. No action was taken on this item.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Allen Biaggi – Out of Basin ground water proposals and current status.
 - 1. Mr. Biaggi Presented a PowerPoint Presentation about Interbasin Transfers. The PowerPoint Presentation is attached.
 - 2. The PowerPoint presentation covered:
 - a. Who owns the water? The water, above and below ground belongs to the public.
 - b. There are two sources of water – ground water and surface water.
 - c. The State Engineer is responsible for many items in regards to water. Mr. Biaggi covered one specific responsibility of the State Engineer – Appropriation.
 - a. In the appropriation process in the State of Nevada, for you to be able to use water in the State it requires a permit from the State Engineer, except if you are drilling a domestic well for a residence – no permit is required in that instance however you are limited to 1800 gallons per day of water. There is a bill that will be possibly

brought forward in the Legislative session defining what constitutes a domestic well.

- d. Approval or denial of water rights are based on four primary criteria:
 - a. Is there unappropriated water?
 - b. Will it conflict with existing rights?
 - c. Cannot threaten to prove detrimental to the public interest
 - d. Does the use conflict with existing domestic wells?
- e. Additional Criteria
 - a. Intention in good faith to constrict and work necessary to apply the water to the intended beneficial use; and
 - b. The financial ability and reasonable expectation of the applicant to actually construct the work and apply the water to the intended beneficial use.
- f. Ground water – The state is divided into hydrographic basins.
- g. Interbasin transfers – which is the point of diversion in one basin and place of use in another. 1st interbasin transfer was in 1873 from Marlette Lake to Virginia City.
- h. Surface water – very little surface was not being used prior to state water law. Now almost all of the surface water has been claimed.
- i. 1 acre-foot of Water is 325, 851 gallons.
- j. Perennial Yield Concept – Can be defined as the maximum amount of ground water that can be salvaged each year over the long term without depleting the ground water reservoir.
- k. Ground Water Management Tools
 - a. Grant permits where actual pumpage will be at or near the perennial yield
 - b. Have the ability to regulate pumping based on priorities
 - c. Monitor the basins.
- l. Las Vegas Valley Water District
 - a. Filed 146 application is 1989 in 27 basins for the appropriation of 180,000 acre-feet of groundwater
 - b. 32 applications were withdrawn from 10 of the basins
 - c. Twelve permits have been granted
 - d. The remaining 102 applications have over 3,000 protests.
 - e. Snake Valley – crosses the border into Utah. There is a law in Congress that has been passed stating that before water can be extracted from Snake Valley and piped to Clark County, the State of Nevada and the State of Utah must have an agreement on the allocation of that water between the two states. The State has been in negotiations for approximately a year with the State of Utah and their counterparts there.
 - f. Nevada has a very strict ground water law. The state of California has no ground water law, so basically it is 'first come, first serve' regarding ground water in California.
- m. Groundwater Studies
 - a. Many water resource studies have been conducted in Nevada that provide the State Engineer with the basis for making allocation decisions
 - b. The State Engineer has the authority to require the applicant conduct additional studies to fill in data gaps.
 - c. One large groundwater study is going on right now. It is BARCASS – it is in regard to Eastern Nevada and Western Utah and its relation to the basins being asked for water resources transferred

down to Las Vegas. The BARCASS study must be finalized by Congressional Mandate by the end of 2007.

3. Discussion followed Mr. Biaggi's PowerPoint Presentation and Questions from the Commission Members and Staff –
 - a. Kelly McGowan asked once the draw down reaches a certain level, can the State Engineer step in and say even though you are not impacting your neighbors, the drawn down needs to stop?
 - a. This is a very controversial issue in which State Law states 'reasonable drawn down' but it can be argued what is reasonable. Some of the things that can be done are Litigation measures, *for example*, if your well is drawn down more than 15 feet, then we will pay to drill you a new well to extend the well deeper or pay to make up the difference in power costs for extracting the water. These are some of the issues that the State Engineer has to decide on and deal with.
 - b. Judy Currier asked what the status of the fining of community well users in the Las Vegas Valley was.
 - a. That is a bill going before the Legislature this session. This bill was recommended by the State Engineer and the Interim Study approved moving forward with that bill. The Legislature has asked to see the regulations and Water Resources is preparing to present those regulations to the Legislature early in the session. The reason for this bill introduction is because the Department and Water Resources is finding that people routinely over pumping their water rights because it is easier to do that and pay the very modest fine now, rather than to stop the pumping and comply with their permit.
 - c. Vance Vesco asked what could happen, and what is happening, regarding agriculture lands pumping less due to urbanization in that area, will that water be reallocated to the subdivisions?
 - a. Mr. Biaggi stated that this is happening right now. Dayton Valley is a great example of how the conversion of the supplemental groundwater rights and ground water rights to municipal and industrial uses. When agriculture water is applied, some of it gets back into the ground, which means there is not a one hundred consumptive use in the Dayton Valley. The four acre-feet per acre that is applied to the land and in the conversion into municipal and industrial, recognizing that the water is not percolating back into the ground, the State Engineer has made a decision that only two and a half acre-feet of the four acre-feet can be used for municipal and industrial uses.
 - d. Kelly McGowan asked if the counties are working on the conversion of agriculture groundwater being converted for municipal uses.
 - a. Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea has instated a fee for when water is transferred from one county to another. This fee is a per acre fee is applied to the county receiving from the county of origin. This fee is to pay for some of the offsets for the environmental and social considerations. The counties have also looked at ways to protect their water resources, so they can't get transferred out of the basin. Last Legislative session Senator Rhoads sent a letter to all the cities and counties saying that they better review their growth rates and better allocate their water for the future, so they have a reserve now, and it does not go into an interbasin transfer in the future.

B. Legislative Session – Pamela B. Wilcox

1. The Legislative Session is on a 120-day calendar.
2. All information regarding BDR and all schedules can be found on the Legislative website: <http://leg.state.nv.us/>.

C. NRCS Transportation – Sandi Gotta ***ACTION***

1. The Attorney General's office verified that District supervisors and employees are covered under the General Liability Insurance. This allows District supervisors and employees to ride in and drive NRCS vehicles.
2. The reason NRCS was not allowing District supervisors and employees to ride in NRCS vehicles was because ONB needed proof that there was a financial benefit being provided to NRCS for allowing District supervisors and employees to ride in or drive NRCS vehicles.
3. NRCS is asking for something from Districts in exchange for vehicle access.
4. Bill Daily – NRCS – a letter will be provided to the Division of Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission. The letter is still in draft form and needs to be reviewed by Richard Vigil, State Conservationist.
5. Judy Currier made a motion for staff to work with NRCS to come up with a suitable plan and staff to do research to see if this is an issue in other states. Joe Sicking seconded the motion, motion passed.

D. Nevada Agriculture and Water Quality Group "MOU" Analysis and update – Sandi Gotta - ***ACTION***

1. The Nevada Agriculture and Water Quality Group will be attending the Area Meeting to talking about what the benefits are of this MOU.
2. The Commission determined that no action needed to be taken on this item.

E. Recognition of James Settelmeyer's service to the Commission – Joe Sicking - ***ACTION***

1. Joe Sicking made a motion to purchase a plaque to recognize James Settelmeyer's service to the State Conservation Commission. Judy Currier seconded the motion, motion passed. ***The plaque will be purchased with public funds through Silver State Industries***

F. Question 1 Program – Pamela B. Wilcox and Kevin J. Hill, current grants and projects analyst supervisor for the Q1 Program - ***ACTION***

1. Kevin J. Hill presented a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation is attached.
2. The Question 1 Bond program is voter approved. The voters approved \$200 million for conservation projects. \$65 million is administered by the Question 1 program.
3. Conservation Districts are not able to apply for the funds; however they are often the recipient of the funds. Counties often apply for the funds and in turn the funds the County receives are used by the Districts for conservation efforts.
4. Judy Currier made a motion to have a representative from the State Conservation Commission present in any planning of future Bond Programs. Joe Sicking seconded the motion, motion passed.

G. BLM and USFS presentations reviewing the 2006 fire season. What can Conservation Districts do to assist in fire prevention and rehabilitation? – Joe Tague – BLM, Rex McKnight – BLM, and Greg Vergari – USFS - ***ACTION***

1. Greg Vergari – Fire Staff, US Forest Service –
 - a. In 2006 the US Forest Service had a total of 29,692 acres that burned.
 - b. Fire rehabilitation – When a need for fire rehabilitation has been determined the District Rangers notify the Regional Office. The regional office's Resource Specialist will go to those areas and determine what type of rehabilitation is needed.
 - a. **The Advan Fire** in the Ely District was 534 acres and 174 of those acres were treated for cheat grass.
 - b. The Sherwood Fire in the Ely District was 5,000 acres and 1,400 of those acres were treated for cheat grass.
 - c. **The Sloan Canyon Fire** was 12,000 acres. There was no treatment for that site.
 - d. The Jackass Fire was 6,200 acres. There was no treatment for that site.

- c. The US Forest is trying to become more efficient in wild land fire use. Since fire plays a natural role on the environment, they are going to start using fire for control of invasive species, or to contain the spread of invasive species.
 - a. The US Forest Service has approximately 800,000 acres of wilderness that will be placed into wild land fire use.
 - d. Fire Prevention – The US Forest Service, BLM and State of Nevada work together for fire prevention. In 1999, the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) through the Cooperative Extension agency had a “Living with Fire” forum; from this meeting the Nevada Fire Safe Council was established. There are currently 3,000 members, 35 communities and a number of agencies.
 - e. “Living with Fire” program – UNR Cooperative Extension has tailored the program to fit rural, wooded and urban areas. It has become a state wide fire prevention program,
2. Rex McKnight – State Fire Management – Bureau of Land Management –
- a. Mr. McKnight handed out a Year to Date Wildfire Report. The report is attached.
 - b. Across the State of Nevada approximately 1.3 million acres burned in 2006.
 - c. There were a total of 1274 fires.
 - d. The 2006 fire season started early January 2006 and ended December 2006.
 - e. 123 of the 1274 fires were over 300 acres, and 20 of the 1274 fires were over 10,000 acres.
 - f. Elko County –
 - a. 241 fires were located in Elko County. Those fires burned approximately 1 million acres.
 - b. The majority of rehabilitation efforts were focused in Elko County.
3. Joe Tague - Brach Chief for Renewable Resources – Bureau of Land Management –
- a. Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation –
 - a. Fire Rehabilitation program – seeding/fencing to prevent grazing in burned areas.
 - b. Noxious weed treatments
 - c. \$28.5 million is planned for the Stabilization Program
 - d. Approximately \$10 million is planned for the Rehabilitation Program
 - e. Seeding – 400,000 acres has been planned for seeding, and of those 400,000 acres 100,000 has already been seeded.
 - b. Partnerships – the BLM is looking to work with more partners to concentrate their efforts to identify high priority areas and work to establish prevention methods.
 - c. Prevention Methods/Programs:
 - a. Living with Fire Program
 - b. Fire Safe Program
 - c. Green stripping in communities
 - d. Decrease cheat grass
 - e. Grazing
 - f. Ready Reserve Program – money is available for training rural fire departments.
4. Chairman Keith Whipple asked what the BLM and US Forest service want from the Commission and Districts, or what help they could offer to the agencies.
- a. Mr. Tague suggested Districts work with the various field offices in the rehabilitation planning efforts. Also the District should work with private land owners in prevention and rehabilitation efforts.

- b. Contact information: <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html> or Contact Joe Tague at 775-861-6556 or joe_m_tague@blm.gov .

X. STAFF ITEMS – Division Staff Comments

XI. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

A.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. No Public Comments.

XIII. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - *ACTION*

A. Set time and place.

1. The next commission meeting will be held April 20th or April 27th in Carson City, NV.

B. Agenda Items:

1. Legislative Session updates
2. District Compliance update

C. Joe Sicking made a motion to accept the next Commission Meeting to be April 20th or April 27th. Judy Currier seconded the motion, motion passed.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT - *ACTION*

A.